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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 17, 2002

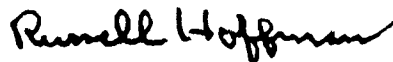
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing in regards to the Microsoft antitrust settlement reached with the Department of Justice. I am a supporter of the settlement in so far as I wish to see legal action against Microsoft brought to a halt. It is more accurate to say that I have been opposed to the antitrust case from the beginning; I feel that it was entirely unfounded.

I disagree with other people's sentiments that Microsoft is getting off easy. Under the terms of the settlement, Microsoft will no longer enter into any agreements with third parties to exclusively distribute or promote Windows technology, except where no competitive concerns are present. Microsoft will also document and release to its competitors various internal interfaces of the Windows operating system. My understanding is that this is the first time in an antitrust settlement ever that product source material has been disclosed.

I strongly urge all those involved to support the current settlement and bring this three-year long suit to a close. No further action should be taken against Microsoft at the federal level.

Sincerely,



Russell Hoffman